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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have already stated that this Government have been taking all necessary action and pointing out to the Government of India about the action to be taken regarding pepper and other articles which are produced in Malabar."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" In view of the fact that coconut is an important crop of Malabar and the price of coconut is very low, will the Government take urgent steps to increase duty on foreign crop by approaching the Central Government so as to get an increased price for coconut? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I may assure the hon. Member that this Government have been taking suitable steps in the matter. But, I would also like to tell him that the people here are very much interested in consuming coconuts and it is therefore not in the interests of the consumer to see that the price stands at a very high level."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" എക്സ്‌പോർട്ട് ഡ്യൂട്ടി കുറച്ചതു കൊണ്ടുമാത്രം കുരുമുളകിന്നു വില വർദ്ധിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നില്ല. കൂടുതൽ മാർക്കെററുണ്ടാക്കിയാലെ വില വർദ്ധിക്കയുള്ളൂ. അതിന്നുവേണ്ടി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് എന്തെങ്കിലും നടപടി എടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ? ഇന്ത്യാ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു എന്തെങ്കിലും ശിപാർശി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" இந்த பெப்பரை உள்ளூரில் இருக்கிறவர்கள் சாப்பிடுங்கள். வெளியூரில் இருக்கிறவர்களையும் சாப்பிடவேண்டுமென்று பிரசாரம் செய்யுங்கள். வெளியூரில் விற்றால்தான் விலையும் கொஞ்சம் கிடைக்கும். ஆகவே எவ்வளவு தூரம் அதிகமாக எற்றுமதி செய்ய முடியுமோ அவ்வளவு தூரம் முயற்சி எடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றது."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, Indian pepper has lost a major portion of the foreign market because of adulteration of bad quality. Have the Government suggested to the Central Government that the situation may be effectively met so that the foreign market may improve? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, Government are fully aware of this aspect of the situation and they have been taking suitable steps."

Dismissal of certain sanitary workers in Manapparai Panchayat Board

* 2267 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the sanitary workers employed under the Panchayat Board, Manapparai, Tiruchirappalli district, regarding the dismissal of certain workers during February 1955;

(*b*) whether the Government enquired into the matter; and

(*c*) if so, with what results?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) No representation from the sanitary workers employed under the Manapparai Panchayat was received. But the hon. Member brought to the notice of Government the dismissal of certain sanitary workers of the above panchayat.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has been asked to issue suitable instructions to the Regional Inspector of Local Boards, Tiruchirapalli, to cancel his proceedings in which he had issued a direction that the Manapparai Panchayat Sanitary Workers' Association should not function unless it was recognized by the Government. As regards reinstatement of dismissed sanitary workers, the Government have declined to interfere in the matter."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, the charge against the workers was that they were members of a trade union which is lawfully registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act. When the Government had thought it fit to direct the Regional Inspector of Local Boards to cancel his proceedings issued to that union, may I know why the Government cannot ask him to reinstate the workers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the Executive Officer framed two charges against the sanitary workers. One was that they were members of a union which had not been accorded official recognition and the office-bearers of which belonged to the Communist Party. That was one charge and that has been dropped now. The second charge was that they issued pamphlets abusing the Executive Officer of bad administration, neglect of his duties and work, etc. In regard to this charge, the District Panchayat Officer called the workers and told them that no further action will be taken against them provided they gave an undertaking to express regret for such misconduct. But, they were recalcitrant and therefore they were dismissed."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" Sir, if the workers were prepared to give such an undertaking, will the Government reconsider the matter and reinstate them? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I do not know whether any other workers are now employed in their places."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" From the reply given by the Hon. Minister, it is clearly seen that no definite charge has been made against the workers by the Executive Officer. There is no mention of neglect of their duties or any such thing. The only thing mentioned is that they were members of a trade union. There are many unions of panchayat and municipality workers and these trade unions have been functioning in this State. May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to take away the trade union rights of the workers and punish them merely for the reason

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that they became members of trade unions? If it is not their policy, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to take back those workers who have been dismissed? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the hon. Member does not seem to have understood properly the answer given by me. Though the Executive Officer took objection to the association of outsiders with the union of workers, the action taken against the workers was for their misbehaviour and indiscipline besides their active incitement of other workers also to indiscipline."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The only act of their misbehaviour and indiscipline was that they issued a pamphlet criticising the action of the Executive Officer. I have seen that pamphlet and it contains certain allegations against the Executive Officer. Did the Government enquire into those allegations and find out whether they are true? To my knowledge, the Government have not cared to do it. Instead of doing this, why should the Government dismiss the workers on that score? Further, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that the panchayat board has unanimously resolved and also sent a resolution to the Inspector of Local Boards on the question of reinstatement of those workers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I am not aware of it, Sir."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" Sir, ordinarily, the administration used to victimize the workers only on the plea of indiscipline. May I know whether the Government have enquired into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. Government have received the report of the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils in this matter."

Khadi dealers in the State

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DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Hon. Member who gave notice of this question Sri P. S. Rangaswamy Naidu, is not in his seat. So, the answer and his question will be printed in the official proceedings."

SRI P. S. RANGASWAMY NAIDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that free licences are issued to the Khadi dealers in the State;

(*b*) whether the Government are taking any action against such dealers who have not obtained free licences; and

(*c*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that action has been taken against one Premier Khadi Corporation, Tiruppur, to collect an amount of Rs. 362–11–0 towards tax for non-possession of free licence for the year 1954–55?